

REMARKS

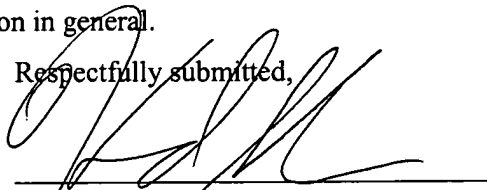
Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed on February 13, 2004, of which this response is filed with the three month shortened statutory period for response. Claims 1-56 were pending in the application and the Examiner allowed claims 31-33, 38-49, 52 and 53. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17-19, 22-25, 36, 51 and 55-56. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 17-19, 22-25, 31-33, 36, 38-49, 51-53 and 55-56 remain pending in the application. Although not listed in the Summary, Applicant presumes claim 54 is also rejected based on the Examiner's detailed comments on page 6; however, Applicant requests the Examiner to clarify the status of claim 54.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-16, 20, 21, and 26-30 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker 6,163,771 in view of Franklin 5,883,810. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant cancels claims 1-16, 20, 21, and 26-30 without prejudice or estoppel from filing one or more similar claims in one or more applications. Accordingly, the rejections are now moot.

The Examiner next rejects claims 34, 35, 37, 50 and 54 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker 6,163,771. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant cancels claims 34, 35, 37, 50 and 54 without prejudice or estoppel from filing one or more similar claims in one or more applications. Accordingly, the rejections are now moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter is added in this Response. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,


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